

## Addressing Concerns

### Confidentiality:

Be assured that OSA and GHS will do their best to protect patient confidentiality when it comes to the database and reports issued. There will be limited access and interested parties must register for access.

### The “Chilling Effect”:

OSA will only give reports to the Criminal Justice System if they have a court order. This program is for prevention and treatment of those affected by illicit use of prescription drugs. Other states such as Nevada have had great success with their program and their prescribers consider it a valuable and desired tool.

### Data Accuracy:

GHS will be using “Fuzzy Logic”. This allows them to pull together and compare names that are quite similar like “John Smith” and “Johnny Smith”.

OSA also will encourage dispenser pharmacies to be thorough in their record keeping because the reports will only be as good as the data received.

GHS will be inspecting and cleaning all records that come in before they enter the database. They will send back any data that needs to be edited.

## Resources for Questions

**OSA-** the Office of Substance Abuse wants the PMP program to be a benefit to prescribers and OSA can be of assistance in responding to questions and concerns as this new program is established.

**Please contact Chris Baumgartner  
OSA’s Program Coordinator with your  
questions or concerns:**

Phone: (207) 287-3363

Email: [chris.baumgartner@maine.gov](mailto:chris.baumgartner@maine.gov)

Web: <http://www.maineosa.org>

### **OSA Information Resource Center**

Phone: (207) 287-8900 or  
1-800-499-0027

TTY: (207) 287-4475 or  
1-800-215-7604

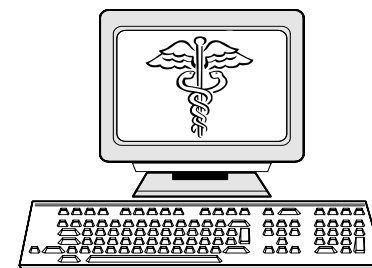
**GHS-** The contractor, GHS Data Management, Inc. is located in Maine. GHS is available to answer your questions regarding the reporting system.

### **GHS Contact information:**

Phone: (207) 622-7153

Web: [www.ghsinc.com](http://www.ghsinc.com)

## **Maine's Electronic Prescription Monitoring Program**



### **An Overview for Prescribers**

This Brochure is to inform you of how the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) works and how you as a prescriber can use this new tool to give better care to your patients.



John Elias Baldacci  
Governor



Jack R. Nicholas  
Commissioner

## **Maine's Problem**

- Abuse of prescription drugs has been on a rapid rise since 1997
- Treatment Admissions For Prescription Drug Abuse Have Increased Exponentially From 83 in 1995 to 1148 in 2003
- Overdose deaths increased dramatically through 2002 primarily due to prescription drug abuse
- In 2001 Out of 90 drug deaths, 70 (78%) were caused by a pharmaceutical.
- In 2002 Out of 166 drug deaths, 148 (89%) were caused by a pharmaceutical
- More than 20% of High School Seniors have used prescription drugs to get high

## **PMP Overview**

The Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) is the State Agency with oversight of the Prescription Monitoring Program. The purpose of this program is to provide prescribers with information to identify and treat their patient's misuse/abuse of prescription medications.

OSA's contractor, GHS Data Management, Inc., is to collect all of the data and generate reports for Schedule II, III, & IV Drugs. Each Dispenser Pharmacy will send electronic batch files of all their transactions for these drugs to GHS.

Reports will be sent to prescribers when a threshold for a drug has been reached by a patient. Prescribers can also request a report on a patient showing their history with these drugs. Please remember that data collection begins on July, 2004 so no data prior to that date will be available. These reports are free to all prescribers and dispensers, and will be issued within 24 hours of the request.

### **Benefits to the Prescriber**

1. You can receive more background information on a new patient.
2. You can check on current patients you are concerned may have a problem with drug abuse.
3. You will receive threshold warnings on patients who appear to be using prescriptions inappropriately.

## **Using Reports**

OSA encourages you to use this new tool to get reports on your patients in order to give them better care.

### **Concerning Threshold Reports:**

OSA encourages you to review your records to see if you have the identified person as a patient and whether or not you wrote the prescription(s) shown on the report.

If you find that any of the prescriptions shown are not from your office contact the Prescription Monitoring Program Coordinator at OSA to get the record in error corrected. We want to keep this tool accurate and useful and appreciate your help in such matters.

If you wrote the prescription(s) please consider how to discuss your concerns with your patient. You may also want to keep the threshold report in your patient's record or chart.

The goal is to get patients the treatment they need if they have a drug related problem. Please inform the patient about what help is available.

If you need more information on what help is available, Refer to the *"Additional Information For Prescribers"* brochure.